



ArchivesSpace

## Elizabeth Akers Allen papers, 1866-1911

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library  
University of New England  
716 Stevens Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103  
[cmiller10@une.edu](mailto:cmiller10@une.edu)  
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Maine Women Writers Collection
<b>Creator:</b>	Allen, Elizabeth Akers, 1832-1911
<b>Title:</b>	Elizabeth Akers Allen papers
<b>ID:</b>	0007
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1866-1911
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.25 linear feet 24 folders
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Akers Allen papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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Allen was born Elizabeth Anne Chase on October 9, 1832 in Strong, Maine and grew up in Farmington, Maine, where she attended Farmington Academy (later Maine State Teachers College). In 1851 she married her first husband, Marshall Taylor; the marriage ended soon after in divorce. She served as writer and associate editor for the Portland Transcript beginning in 1855, and in the next year published her first volume of poetry, *Forest Buds From the Woods of Maine*, under the pseudonym Florence Percy. She traveled throughout Europe from 1859-1860, serving as a correspondent for the Portland Transcript as well as the Boston Evening Gazette. From Rome, she dispatched to the Saturday Evening Post of Philadelphia the poem "Rock Me to Sleep, Mother," which would become her most well known work. It was later set to music and became a famous Civil War song. In August 1860, she married Benjamin Paul Akers, a Maine sculptor who she met in Rome. Akers died in 1861 of tuberculosis. From 1863 to 1865, Elizabeth Akers Allen worked in Washington D.C. as a government clerk. In 1865, she married Elijah M. Allen. In 1866, a collection of her work, entitled *Poems* was published; a controversy ensued in which Alexander M.W. Ball claimed authorship of "Rock Me to Sleep, Mother." Allen became involved in legal proceedings to reclaim the copyright, as the poem was indeed her own work. After living for a while in Richmond, Virginia, Allen returned with her husband to Portland, Maine in 1874, where she took a job as the associate literary editor of the Daily Advertiser. The couple finally moved to Tuckahoe,

New York, in 1881, during which time Allen published several more volumes of poetry, including *Queen Catherine's Rose* (1885), *The High-Top Sweeting* (1891), and *The Ballad of the Bronx* (1901). She also wrote and published one novel, *The Triangular Society: Leaves From the Life of a Portland Family* in 1886. She died on August 7, 1911.

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## Collection Scope and Content

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This collection is composed primarily of letters from Elizabeth Akers Allen to her friend Gilbert Tracy, written between 1902-1911. The bulk of the letters were written in 1902, and discuss her work, finances, and other personal matters. Also included are several letters to Tracy from Akers Allen's daughters, Grace Cook and Florence Percy McIntyre. Some literary correspondence between Akers Allen and several publishers is included, as well as a manuscript copy of *Sea Birds*, under her pseudonym Florence Percy, dated 1866.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized as a single series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

## Access

Collection is open for research.

## Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish, please contact the Curator of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Poetry -- Letters
- Portland (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Manuscripts
- American poetry -- 19th century
- Allen, Elizabeth Akers, 1832-1911
- Allen, Elizabeth Akers, 1832-1911

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
ALS to Gilbert Tracy, undated	Box 1	Folder 001
ALS to Gilbert Tracy, [16 letters], 1902	Box 1	Folder 002
	Box 1	Folder 003
	Box 1	Folder 004
	Box 1	Folder 005
	Box 1	Folder 006
	Box 1	Folder 007
	ALS to Gilbert Tracy [7 letters], 1903	Box 1
Box 1		Folder 009
ALS to Gilbert Tracy [5 letters], 1904	Box 1	Folder 010
ALS to Gilbert Tracy [3 letters], 1905	Box 1	Folder 011
TLS to Gilbert Tracy, 1910-1911		

	Box 1	Folder 012
Correspondence to E. Akers from The Congregationalist, 1895; 1897	Box 1	Folder 013
TLS to E. Akers Allen from George F. Heath, 1903	Box 1	Folder 014
Correspondence from Grace Cook to Gilbert A. Tracy [7 letters], 1912-1917	Box 1	Folder 015
ALS from Florence Percy McIntyre to Gilbert A. Tracy, undated; 1917	Box 1	Folder 016
ALS to Mrs. Riggs, 1901	Box 1	Folder 017
ALS to Editor of The Aldine, 1875	Box 1	Folder 018
"Sea Birds" manuscript signed Florence Percy, Richmond, VA, 1866	Box 1	Folder 019
ANS insert in The Masonick Minstrel, 1905	Box 1	Folder 020
Lewiston Journal article "Paul Akers, Almost Forgotten...", 1981	Box 1	Folder 021
Handwritten biographical note about EAA, author and date unknown; also second note about English author, Sarah Fuller Adams, "Nearer My God To Thee", (undated)	Box 1	Folder 022
Newspaper poem clipping found as an enclosure in Aurora Leigh by Browning [ITEM MISSING 2/2015], undated	Box 1	Folder 023
Letter to J. W. Penney, 1909	Box 1	Folder 024